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SENATE BILL 5438

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State of Washington                      60th Legislature                      2007 Regular Session

By Senators Eide, Rockefeller, Kohl-Welles, Keiser, Rasmussen, Pridemore, Shin, McAuliffe and Benton

Read first time 01/19/2007. Referred to Committee on Early Learning & K-12 Education.

1            AN ACT Relating to after-school care programs; adding a new section  
2 to chapter 28A.215 RCW; creating a new section; and providing an  
3 effective date.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5            NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature agrees with the findings  
6 of the Washington learns report that research shows that after-school  
7 programs that are well designed and connected with students' school  
8 studies can improve academic learning for those struggling in school  
9 and that after-school programs can play a strong role in supporting  
10 increased math and science learning. The legislature finds that good  
11 after-school programs and activities provide safe and effective  
12 learning environments for children, including children who might  
13 otherwise be alone and unsupervised after school. These programs not  
14 only support children's academic efforts, they also build community  
15 partnerships that support children and their learning.

16            (2) The legislature finds that students who participate in good  
17 after-school care programs:

18            (a) Miss fewer days of school and have better behavior in school,

1 test scores, grades, and records of homework completion than children  
2 who are left alone;

3 (b) Spend more time actively learning in a variety of settings and  
4 less time watching television than their peers who are left alone; and

5 (c) Have better peer relations, emotional adjustment, and conflict  
6 resolution skills than children who are left alone.

7 (3) The legislature further finds that there are statewide after-  
8 school plans that have been developed and are available that would help  
9 the state make strategic investments in programs and activities that  
10 support children academically while keeping them safe and well-  
11 supervised. Therefore, the legislature intends to implement the plan  
12 by expanding high quality after-school programs, supporting  
13 professional development for after-school program staff, increasing  
14 public awareness of program benefits, and supporting the after-school  
15 organizational infrastructure to ensure economies of scale in support  
16 of after-school programs.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.215  
18 RCW to read as follows:

19 (1) The Washington community learning center program is  
20 established. The program shall be administered by the office of the  
21 superintendent of public instruction. The purposes of the program  
22 include:

23 (a) Supporting the creation or expansion of community learning  
24 centers that provide students with tutoring and educational enrichment  
25 when school is not in session;

26 (b) Providing training and professional development for community  
27 learning center program staff;

28 (c) Increasing public awareness of the availability and benefits of  
29 after-school programs; and

30 (d) Supporting statewide after-school intermediary organizations in  
31 their efforts to provide leadership, coordination, technical  
32 assistance, advocacy, and programmatic support to after-school programs  
33 throughout the state.

34 (2) To the extent that funding is available for this purpose, the  
35 office of the superintendent of public instruction may provide  
36 community learning center grants to any public or private organization  
37 that meets the eligibility criteria of the federal twenty-first century

1 community learning centers program. Priority may be given to grant  
2 requests submitted jointly by one or more schools or school districts  
3 and one or more community-based organizations or other nonschool  
4 partners. Priority shall be given to grant requests that:

5 (a) Focus on improving reading and mathematics proficiency for  
6 students who attend schools that have been identified as being in need  
7 of improvement under section 1116 of Title I of the federal no child  
8 left behind act of 2001; and

9 (b) Include a public/private partnership agreement or proposal for  
10 how to provide free transportation for those students in need that are  
11 involved in the program.

12 (3) Community learning center grant funds may be used to carry out  
13 a broad array of out-of-school activities that support and enhance  
14 academic achievement. The activities may include but need not be  
15 limited to:

- 16 (a) Remedial and academic enrichment;
- 17 (b) Mathematics, reading, and science education;
- 18 (c) Arts and music education;
- 19 (d) Entrepreneurial education;
- 20 (e) Community service;
- 21 (f) Tutoring and mentoring programs;
- 22 (g) Programs enhancing the language skills and academic achievement  
23 of limited English proficient students;
- 24 (h) Recreational and athletic activities;
- 25 (i) Telecommunications and technology education;
- 26 (j) Programs that promote parental involvement and family literacy;
- 27 (k) Drug and violence prevention, counseling, and character  
28 education programs; and
- 29 (l) Programs that assist students who have been truant, suspended,  
30 or expelled, to improve their academic achievement.

31 (4) Each community learning center grant may be made for a maximum  
32 of five years. Each grant recipient shall report annually to the  
33 office of the superintendent of public instruction on what  
34 transportation services are being used to assist students in accessing  
35 the program and how those services are being funded. Based on this  
36 information, the office of the superintendent of public instruction  
37 shall compile a list of transportation service options being used and

1 make that list available to all after-school program providers that  
2 were eligible for the community learning center program grants.

3 (5) To the extent that funding is available for this purpose, the  
4 office of the superintendent of public instruction may provide grants  
5 or other support for the training and professional development of  
6 community learning center staff, the activities of intermediary after-  
7 school organizations, and efforts to increase public awareness of the  
8 availability and benefits of after-school programs.

9 (6) Schools or school districts that receive a community learning  
10 center grant under this section may seek approval from the office of  
11 the superintendent of public instruction for flexibility to use a  
12 portion of their state transportation funds for the costs of  
13 transporting students to and from the community learning center  
14 program.

15 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** This act takes effect August 1, 2007.

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